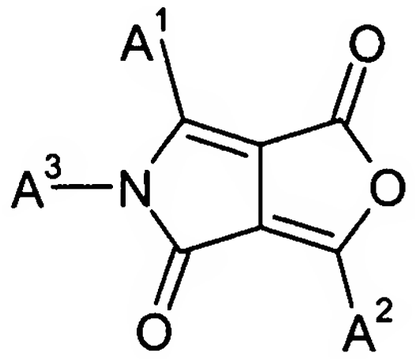
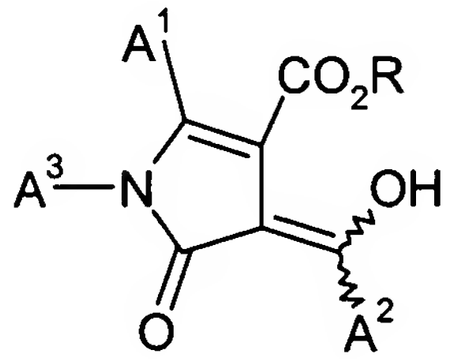
In the claims:

1. **(currently amended):** A process for the preparation of furopyrroles of the general formula



(I), comprising

(a) heating a compound of the formula



(II) under microwave irradiation optionally in the presence of an inert solvent,

wherein A^1 and A^2 are C_1-C_{18}alkyl, C_2-C_{18}alkenyl, C_2-C_{18}alkynyl, C_5-C_8cycloalkyl, C_5-C_8cycloalkenyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

A^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, cyanomethyl, Ar^3, $-CR^{30}R^{31}-(CH_2)_m-Ar^3$ or $Y-R^{32}$, wherein R^{30} and R^{31} independently of each other stand for hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl, or phenyl which can be substituted up to three times with C_1-C_4alkyl,

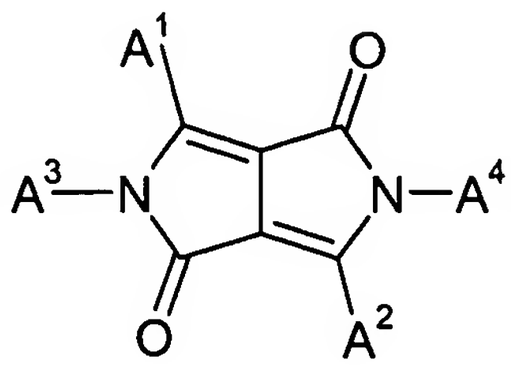
Ar^3 stands for aryl, C_5-C_8cycloalkyl, C_5-C_8cycloalkenyl or heteroaryl, which can be substituted one to three times with C_1-C_8alkyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, halogen or phenyl, which can be substituted with C_1-C_8alkyl or C_1-C_8alkoxy one to three times, and m stands for 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

R is C_1-C_{18}alkyl, ~~in particular C_4-C_4alkyl,~~ aryl, ~~in particular phenyl,~~ or aralkyl, in ~~particular benzyl,~~ which can be substituted one to three times with C_1-C_8alkyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, or halogen,

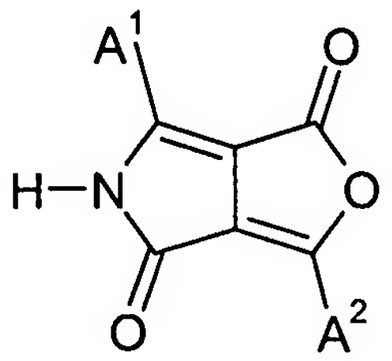
Y is –C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)NH-, $-SO_2NH-$ or $-SO_2-$ and

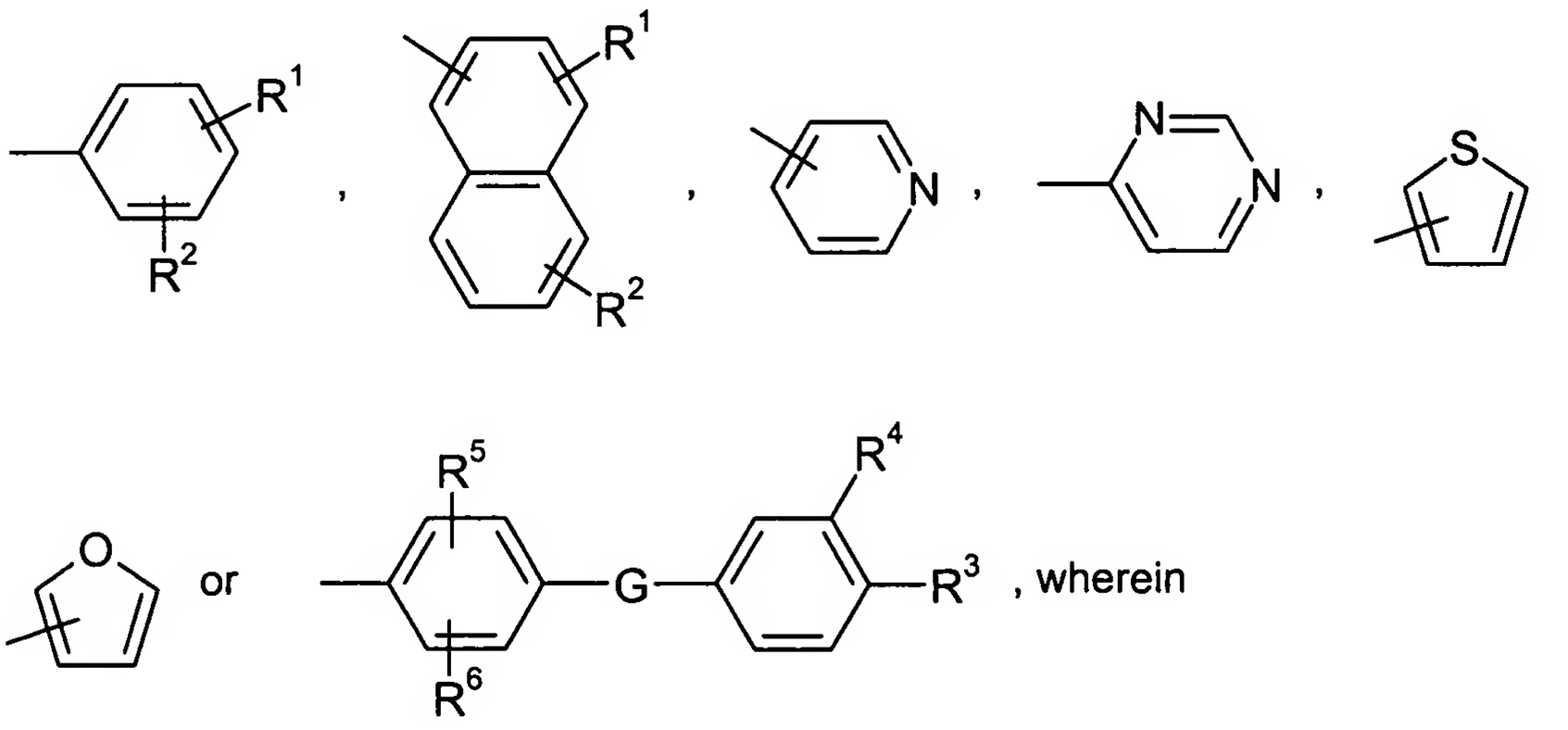
R^{32} is C_1-C_{18}alkyl, Ar^3, or aralkyl.

2. **(currently amended):** The process according to claim 1, comprising in addition

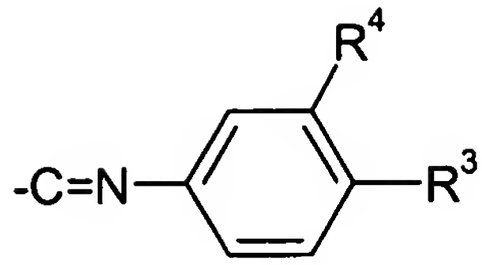
reacting a compound of formula I with a primary amine of the formula A^4-NH_2 (IV), wherein a DPP of formula  ~~formula~~ III is obtained,

wherein A^4 is C_1-C_{18}alkyl or Ar^3, wherein Ar^3, A^1, A^2 and A^3 are defined as in claim 1.

3. **(original):** The process according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula I, wherein A^3 is different from a hydrogen atom, is obtained by reacting a compound of the formula  (Ia) with a compound of the formula A^3-X (V), wherein A^1, A^2 and A^3 have the meanings as given in claim 1 and X is a leaving group.

4. **(currently amended):** The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein A^1 and A^2 are radicals of the formula  or , wherein

R^1 and R^2 are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, C_1-C_{18}alkoxy, C_1-C_{18}alkylmercapto, C_1-C_{18}alkylamino, C_1-C_{18}alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_{18}alkylaminocarbonyl, -CN, -NO_2, trifluoromethyl, C_5-C_8cycloalkyl, -C=N-

(C_1-C_{18}alkyl), phenyl,  , imidazolyl, pyrrazolyl, triazolyl,

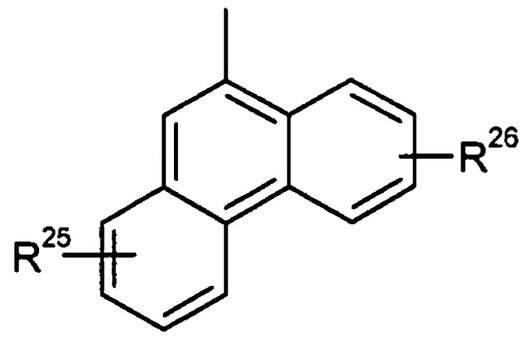
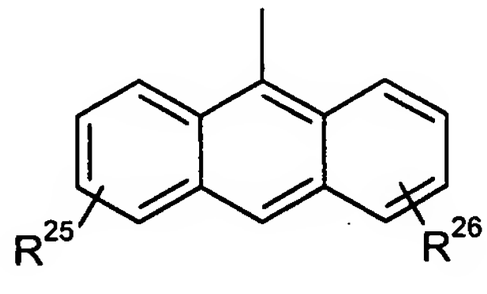
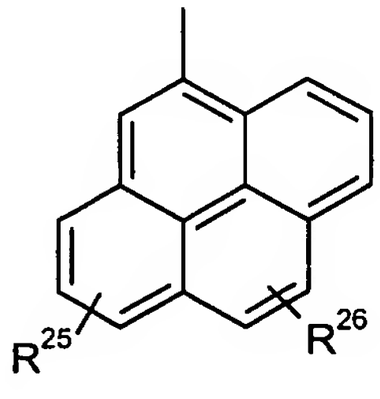
piperazinyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, morpholinyl, piperidinyl or pyrrolidinyl, $-CONX^5X^6$, $-C(O)OX^7$ or $-SO_2X^9$; wherein X^5 and X^6 are hydrogen, linear or branched C_{1-10}-alkyl, C_{5-10}-cycloalkyl or C_{6-10}-aryl, X^7 is hydrogen, linear or branched C_{1-10}-alkyl, C_{5-10}-cycloalkyl or C_{6-10}-aryl, X^9 is hydrogen, linear or branched C_{1-10}-alkyl, C_{5-10}-cycloalkyl, C_{7-10}-aralkyl, C_{6-10}-aryl or $-NX^{10}X^{11}$, wherein X^{10} and X^{11} are hydrogen, linear or branched C_{1-10}-alkyl, C_{7-10}-aralkyl or C_{6-10}-aryl,

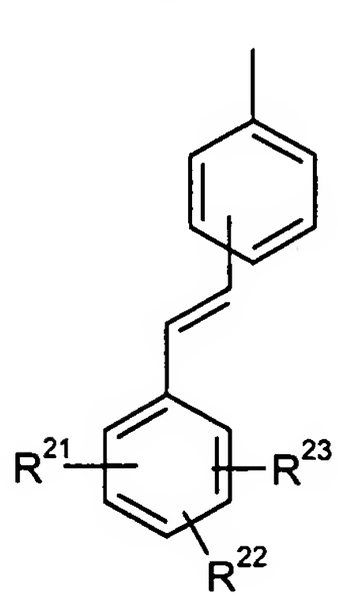
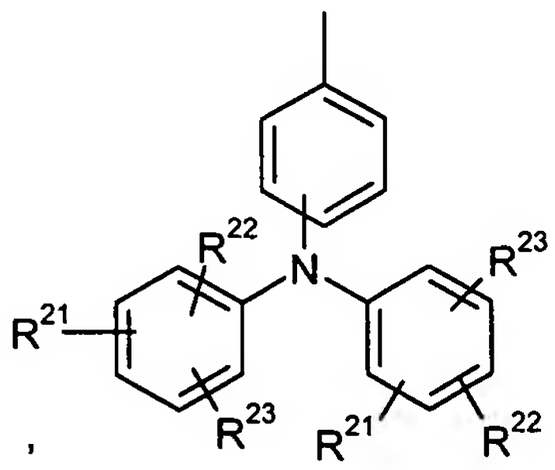
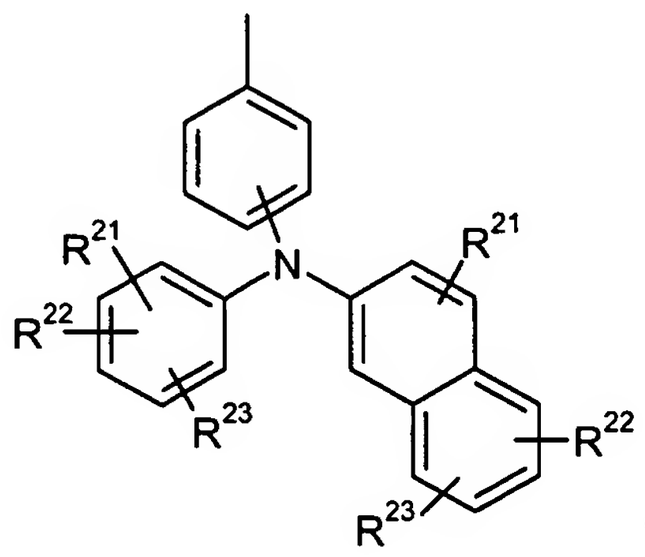
G is $-CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-C(CH_3)_2-$, -CH=N-, -N=N-, -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-SO_2NH-$, -CONH- or $-NR^7-$,

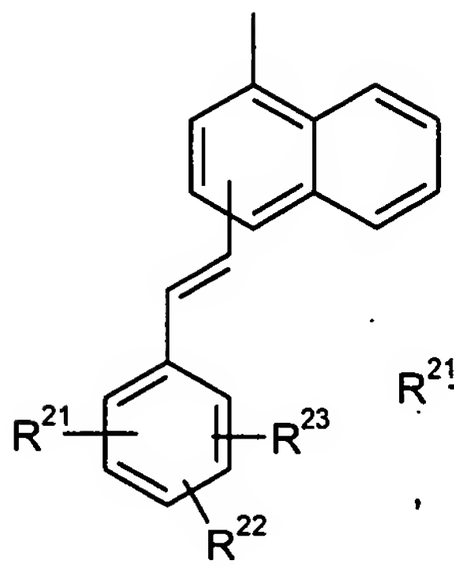
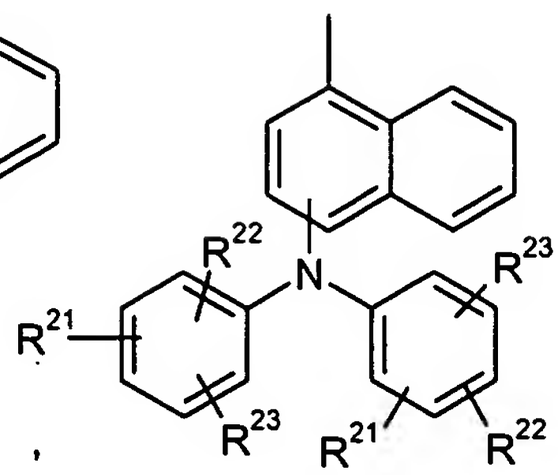
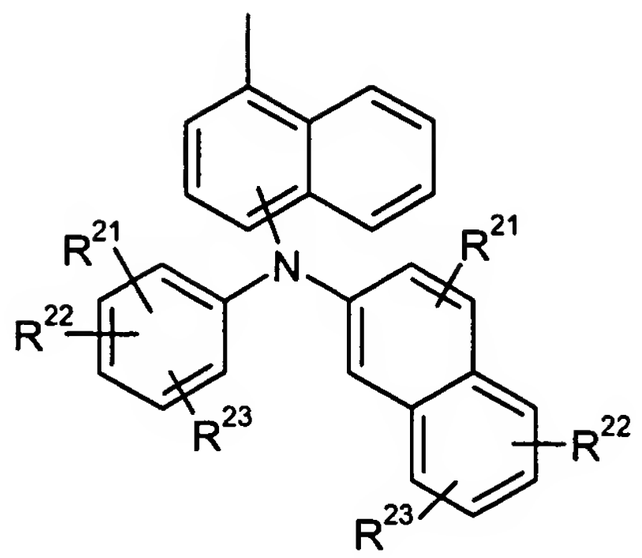
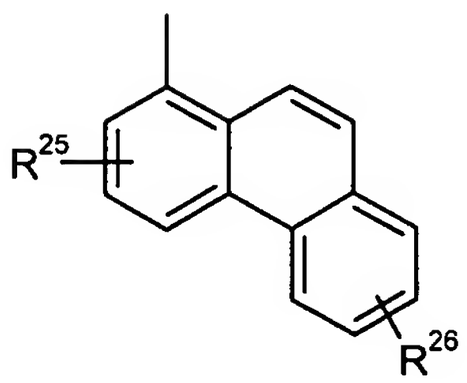
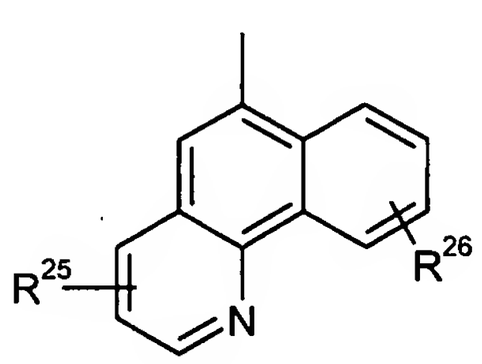
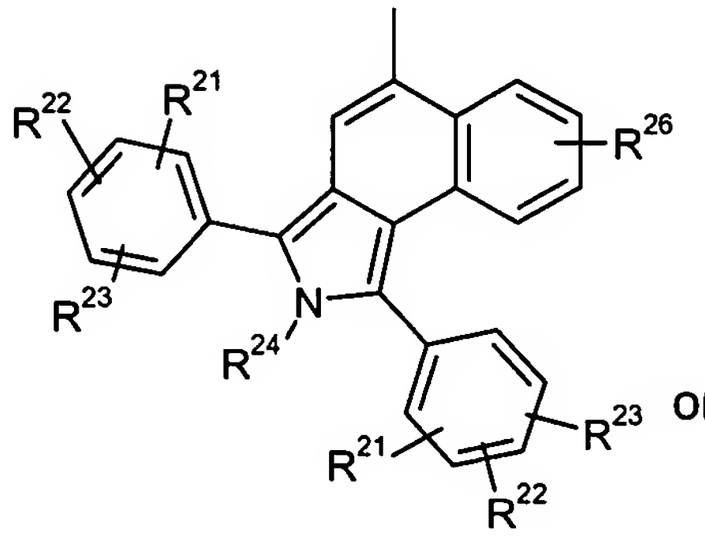
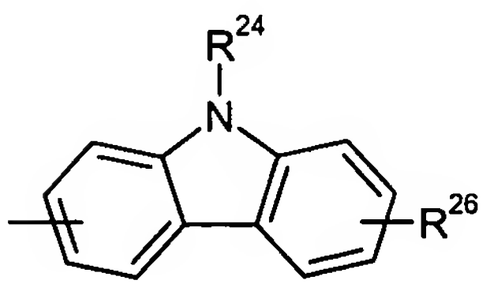
R^3 and R^4 are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_{18}alkoxy or -CN,

R^5 and R^6 are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6alkyl, and R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

or A^1 and A^2 are radicals of the formula

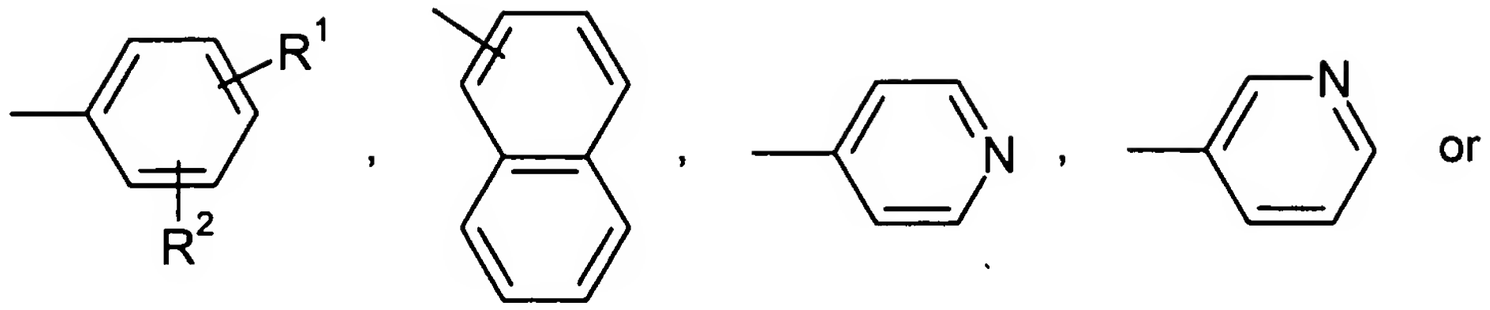
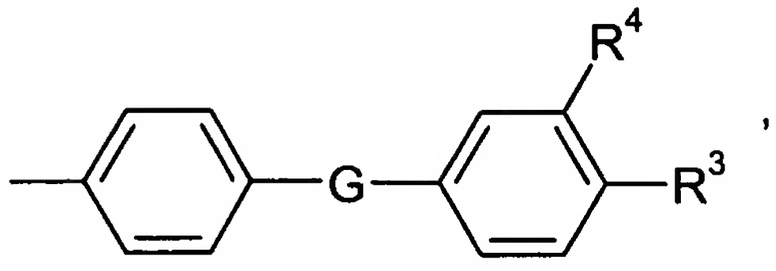
 ,  ,  ,

 ,  ,  ,

wherein R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently of each other hydrogen, C_1-C_8alkyl, a hydroxyl group, a mercapto group, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, halogen, halo-C_1-C_8alkyl, a cyano group, an aldehyde group, a ketone group, a carboxyl group, an ester group, a carbamoyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a silyl group or a siloxanyl group and R^{24} is a C_1-C_6alkyl group.

5. **(original):** The process according to claim 4, wherein A^1 and A^2 are radicals of the formula

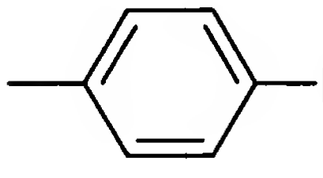
wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently of each other hydrogen, chloro, bromo, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylamino, phenyl or CN,

G is -O-, -NR^7-, -N=N- or -SO_2- ,

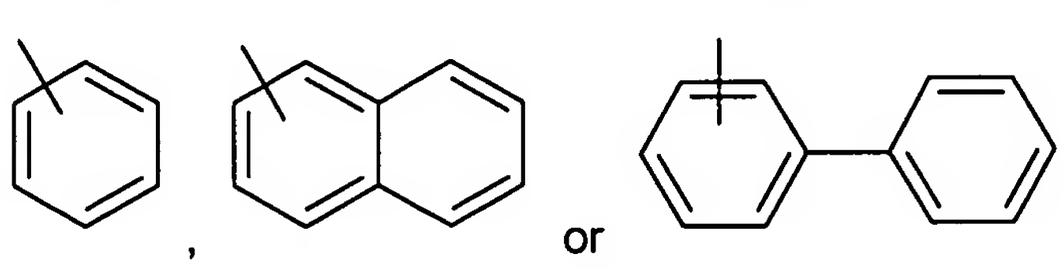
R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, and

R^7 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

6. **(currently amended):** The process according to claim ~~4 or 5~~, wherein A^3 is cyanomethyl, C_1-C_8alkyl ~~such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec.-butyl, isobutyl, tert.-butyl, n-pentyl, 2-pentyl, 3-pentyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl, n-hexyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl and 2-ethylhexyl~~, Y-R^{32} wherein Y is –C(O)- and R^{32} is

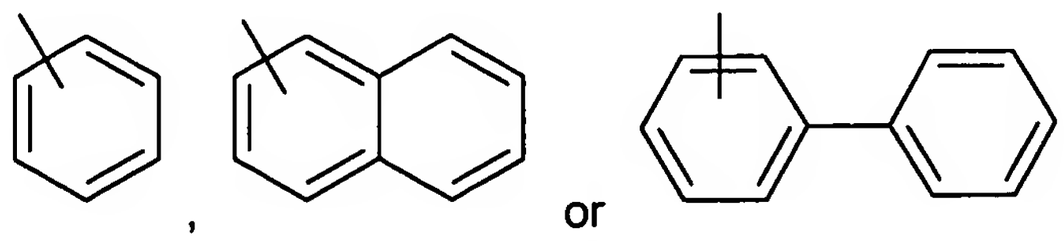

R^{40} , wherein R^{40} is C_1-C_4alkyl, -O-C_1-C_4alkyl, or –S-C_1-C_4alkyl, or

-$(CH_2)_m$-Ar wherein m is 1 and Ar is a group of the formula



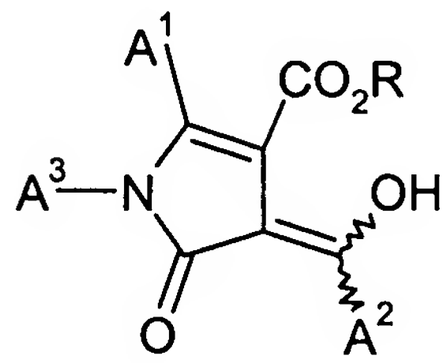
which can be substituted one to three times with C_1-C_8alkyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, halogen or phenyl.

7. **(currently amended):** The process according to ~~any of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein A^4 is



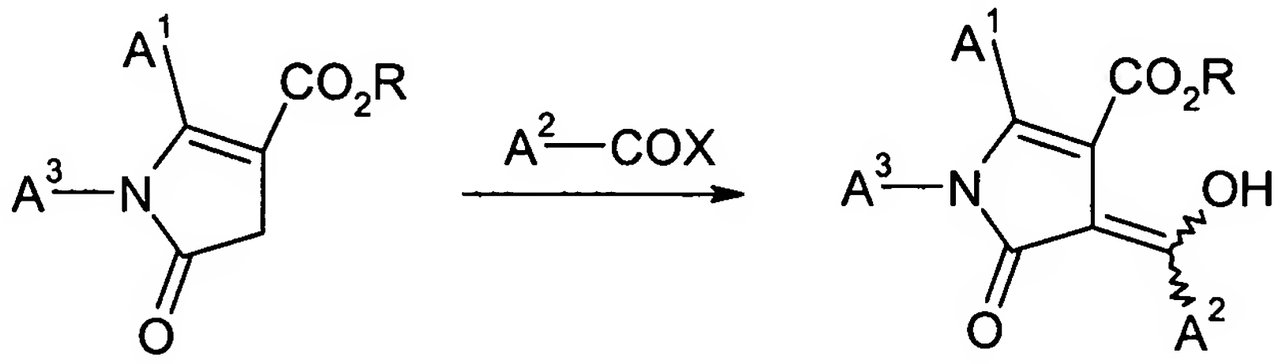
which can be substituted one to three times with C_1-C_8alkyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, halogen or phenyl.

8. **(currently amended):** The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the starting compound of formula (II)



(II)

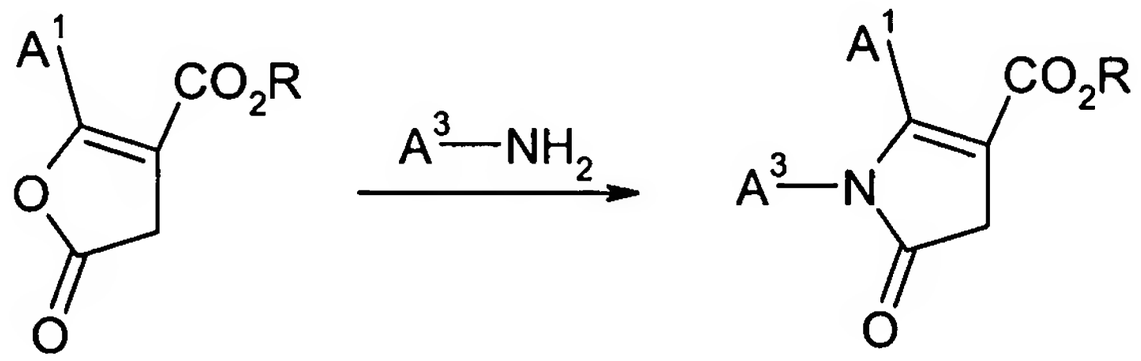
is obtained by reacting a compound of formula (VIII) with an acyl halide A^2 –COX:



(VIII) (II)

wherein R, A^1 and A^2 have the same meaning as given in claim 1, A^3 is aryl, and X is halogen.~~, preferably chlorine.~~

9. **(original):** The process according to claim 8, wherein the compound of formula (VIII) is obtained by reacting a compound of formula (IIb) with an amine A^3 -NH_2:

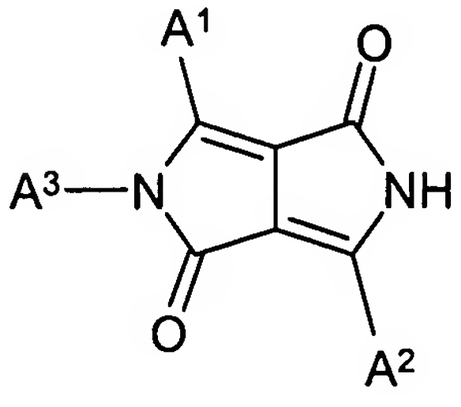


(IIb) (VIII)

wherein R and A^1 have the same meaning as given in claim 1 and A^3 is aryl

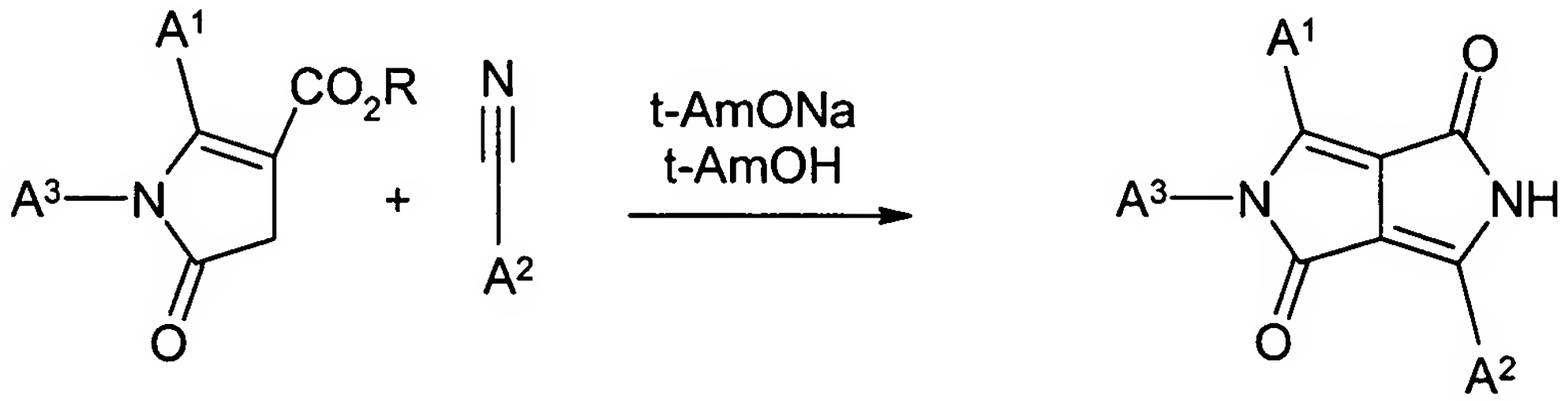
10. **(currently amended):** The process according to claim ~~8 or 9~~, wherein A^2 –COX is benzoyl chloride and
A^3 -NH_2 is aniline.

11. **(currently amended):** A process for the preparation of a DPP of general formula:



(III), comprising

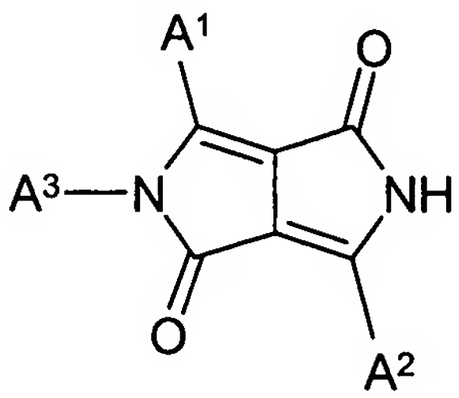
reacting a compound of formula (VIII) with a nitrile A^2–CN, preferably ~~benzonitril:~~



(VIII) (III)

wherein A^1, A^2 and A^3 have the meanings as given in claim 1.

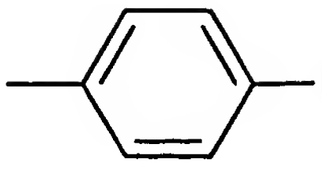
12. **(original):** A DPP of general formula (III)



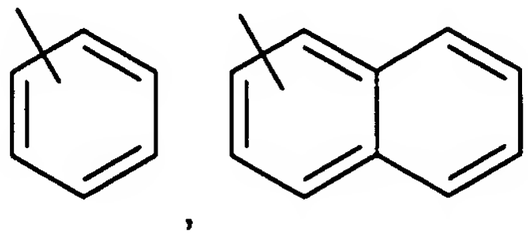
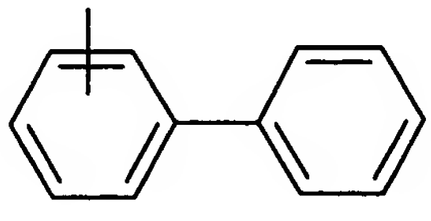
wherein A^1, A^2 and A^3 have the meanings as given in claim 1.

13. **(new):** A process according to claim 1, wherein R is C_1-C_4alkyl, phenyl, or benzyl, which can be substituted one to three times with C_1-C_8alkyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, or halogen.

14. **(new):** A process according to claim 5, wherein A^3 is cyanomethyl, C_1-C_8alkyl, Y-R^{32} wherein Y is –C(O)- and R^{32} is


R^{40}, wherein R^{40} is C_1-C_4alkyl, -O-C_1-C_4alkyl, or –S-C_1-C_4alkyl, or

-$(CH_2)_m$-Ar wherein m is 1 and Ar is a group of the formula


or

,

which can be substituted one to three times with C_1-C_8alkyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, halogen or phenyl.